



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

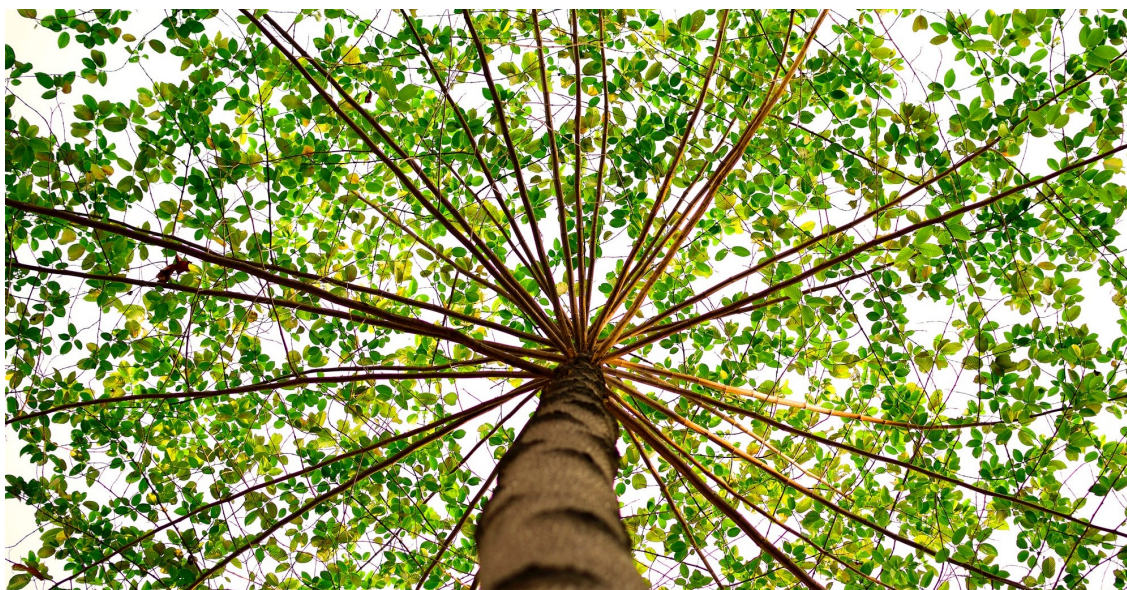
ARBORETUM CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Mar - Apr 2019

1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153

Volume 2 Issue 2



Almost Spring...

Spring will be here in a few short weeks and we are getting excited! Warm and sunny days are on the horizon.

Burke's Garden is undergoing a transformation thanks to a special grant from the May Arboretum Society. You can learn more about that in Interesting Spots on page 8.

Also, in this issue, we have three pages of volunteer opportunities, including information on the Plant Sale. We hope this will help you discover the multitude of ways to volunteer here at the Arboretum. We think you'll be surprised at the different opportunities available.

Thanks, Bev Treadway and Katie Bird

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Volunteer's Corner

By Denise Evans

This year so far has me feeling a bit like I'm stuck in the movie Groundhog Day, with never-ending gray skies and soggy conditions. But one of the many positives to this robust winter has been the opportunity to stand back and reflect on ways we can improve the Arboretum's volunteer program.

Recently, we got together with a group of veteran volunteers for a feedback session. Here are two new things we are already implementing as a result:

Recording volunteer time by category

Starting January of 2019, we began tracking everyone's volunteer time by category: Gardening, May Arboretum Society (MAS), and Education (school tours, programs). Doing this will enable us to more accurately report all of the great things volunteers are doing, and we can more easily acknowledge volunteers that really excel in specific areas. The only additional thing required is a simple checkmark in the correct category when logging time in the newly designed timesheets. Copies are already available in the office binder.

Volunteer Mentor Program

We are looking for experienced volunteers who are comfortable sharing their knowledge of the gardens to help mentor new volunteers. I often hear that the first few times volunteering can be a bit overwhelming when you don't quite know your way around the gardens, or aren't sure exactly what is expected of you. To help remedy this, we think new volunteers will feel more comfortable with a "buddy" to show them the ropes and help them settle in. We hope this program will also help to foster a team environment and encourage the blossoming of a few new friendships. As the volunteer coordinator, I will work with new volunteers to match their skills and interests to the appropriate mentor. We will be asking for a time commitment of three volunteer days per mentee. Please let me know if you would like to be added to my list of mentors...or if you haven't volunteered in a while and would like to be a mentee!

Denise Evans
Parks Volunteer Coordinator
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Volunteer Training News

In an effort to provide continuous learning opportunities to current volunteers as well as reach out to prospective new volunteers, we will begin offering a monthly gardening series that is applicable to both volunteering at the Arboretum and working in the home garden. Classes will take place for two hours on the second Wednesday of each month (Apr-Oct) and will include both a lecture and activity component. **The first class offered will be "Introduction to Tree Pruning" on Wednesday, April 10 at 10am in the Ranch House.** Stay tuned for more info on subsequent classes. Registration is free for current volunteers, but you must preregister with Denise. This new program will replace the annual month-long horticulture training for new volunteers previously slated to begin late February.



It's almost field trip season!



Calling all education volunteers: it's almost field trip season! We have six field trips scheduled for this spring, and we will need educators and guides to help with our Arboretum station tours. Trips are Tuesday or Thursday from 10am to noon.

Stay tuned for more information about a training/ refresher session for field trip volunteers!

If you have never volunteered to help with a field trip, please contact Katie at kbird@washoecounty.us to learn more!

May Arboretum Society Plant Sale News

2019 Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11 & Sunday, May 12—8:00am to 1:00pm

Member's preview sale*

Friday evening, May 10—5:00pm to 7:00pm

**Become a May Arboretum Society member by May 1st and take advantage of a 10% discount!*

The Bluebird Nursery order has been placed and is expected to arrive at the Arboretum greenhouse on Thursday, March 28th or possibly Friday the 29th. The society will be looking for volunteers to help with unpacking the plants, and assisting with the start of the “up-potting” process to 4” pots, and gallon pots. **If you would like to help, please contact our plant sale committee chairman, Rod Dimmitt, or the May Arboretum Society at the contacts noted below.** Sign-up now so that you can be informed of the plans and progress. You can always cancel later, if things change in your personal schedule. Always remember . . . no experience is necessary, but volunteers will be required to attend a one hour greenhouse training class with Bill Carlos on either **Tuesday, March 19 or Thursday, March 21 from 1pm-2pm in the Ranch House.**



The May Arboretum Society will also be accepting donated plants from members the week of May 6th. There will be pots and identification stakes for any plants that you would like to donate. All donated plants must be identified by common name, and botanical name if you have it. Please contact Rod, if you are interested!

The goal is to make this the biggest plant sale ever, and we will need your help! The plant sale provides a fun opportunity to work together, get a hands-on preview of plants available for the sale, not to mention being a part of raising money to fund new Arboretum garden projects! For new members, this is a great opportunity to get involved and meet like-minded garden enthusiasts, like yourself, and develop new friendships, while serving the May Arboretum & Botanical Garden and the May Arboretum Society!

Contact:

Rod Dimmitt, Plant Sale Committee

roddimmitt@hotmail.com or mayarboretumsociety@gmail.com

Meet the Staff: Bill Carlos



Bill (middle) working with two volunteers.

Say "hi" to Bill!

Bill has been the horticulturalist at the May Arboretum since 2005, but he is originally from southern California. Before the arboretum, he worked on golf courses, owned a landscaping business, and worked for University of Nevada cooperative extension. His interest in horticulture led him to obtain both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in the subject.

Bill's favorite part of his job is the diversity of his responsibilities, which include talking to donors, writing reports & proposals, working with garden staff in the field, and cataloging plant records.

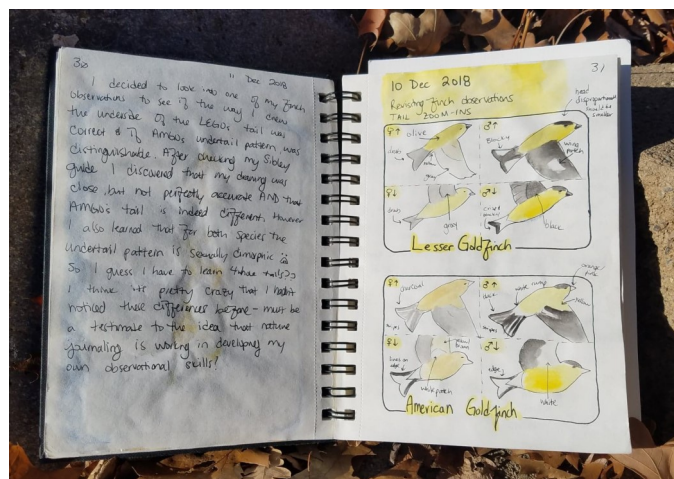
When he's not working, Bill enjoys spending time with his family, gardening, fly fishing, and backpacking.

Welcome local home school children and parents to a new experimental Arboretum program! Join our educator, Katie, for guided outdoor explorations to learn more about the natural world, get better at drawing, and/or just spend time outside with your family.

What is nature journaling?

Nature journaling is an activity for all ages where one spends time sketching & writing about the things that they experience outdoors. This activity does NOT depend on artistic skill, and instead is a pursuit of observation rather than of drawing mastery. Nature journaling is a valuable educational tool for children and adults alike to ask more questions about nature, and in turn develop a mindset more comfortable with scientific inquiry. Getting better at drawing is just a natural side effect of drawing a lot!

Spotlight On: Nature Explorer's Journaling



Sample pages from Katie Bird's nature journal.

Special Events at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

March 2019

- ♦ **March 12, 26** Nature Explorers: Nature Journaling for Homeschoolers 2:30-4pm
- ♦ **March 19, 21** Arboretum Greenhouse training for May Arboretum Society Plant Sale volunteers (see p.4) 1-2pm
- ♦ **March 21** Little Sprouts 10-11am 2-5 year olds.
- ♦ **March 23** 10am Weekend Nature Walks (families w/ kids 10 and under)

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April 2019

- ♦ **April 5, 19** Good Nature Walking Tour for Adults. 1pm -2pm ***Expected dates.***
- ♦ **April 9, 23** Nature Explorers: Nature Journaling 2:30-4pm
- ♦ **April 10**, Introduction to Tree Pruning 10am-12pm
- ♦ **April 12, 19** Friday Bird Walks 4-5pm
- ♦ **April 13, 27** 10am Weekend Nature Walks
- ♦ **April 16** Little Sprouts 10 am ages 2-5 Spring Series
- ♦ **April 26** Arbor Day Celebration 11:30am-1pm

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Words on Birds

By Katie Bird



A lesser goldfinch seen at the Arboretum office.

This issue's featured bird is one that has been swarming the Arboretum office feeders lately: the Lesser Goldfinch. These little birds love to eat thistle and sunflower seeds, and eat together in chatty groups.

The lesser goldfinch doesn't get its name because it's inferior to our other finches,

but because it is the smallest of our three goldfinches. In fact, it is one of the smallest true finches in the world! These birds are also notable because they are "sexually dimorphic" meaning the females look different than the males. Typically the males have a black cap, bright yellow body, and darker wings, while females look a pale yellow-green overall.

According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, lesser goldfinches range from the western U.S. all the way to the mountains of Peru. You can find them in Reno all year round.

If you are interested in planting your home garden to attract goldfinches, consider sunflowers, asters, purple coneflowers, and coreopsis for seed food sources, as well as native plants like sagebrush and rabbit brush to support insect food sources. If you have a lot of space, try adding some willow, cottonwood, alder, or oak trees to provide the birds with nesting sites.

They will start nesting at the Arboretum in April, so be sure to look out for these birds during the breeding season!

Weekend Nature Walks With Alexis

The May Arboretum's Weekend Nature Walks are designed for families with children 10 years and younger to learn more about different aspects of the environment. No two walks are the same, so be sure to check them out!

Walks are led primarily by Alexis Tarantino, a senior Environmental Studies student at UNR. She is well-versed in a variety of natural topics, and has been leading the walks since May 2018. Please contact Katie at 775-785-4153 for more information. Registration is not required.



What's going on in Burke Garden?

If you have been around the Arboretum this winter, you may have wondered about all of the activity centered around Burke Garden.

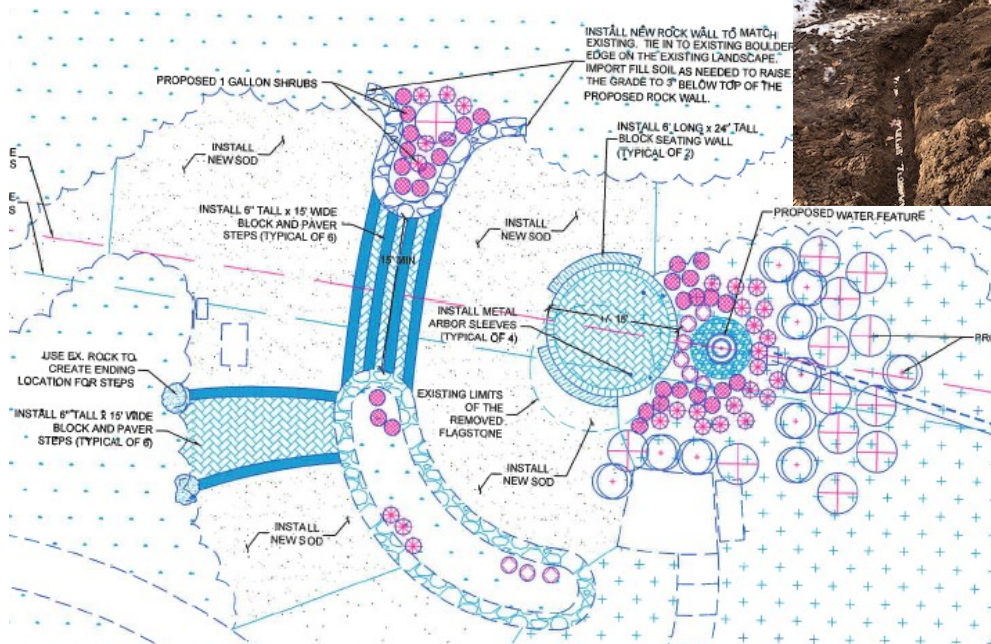
We hope you continue to watch the progress of the construction because it is an exciting time for Burke!

The entire garden is being relevelled with upgraded irrigation, as well as new pavers and steps. In addition, the garden will feature a new raised bed that will balance the atmosphere of the garden, and a new water feature that will highlight the English cottage theme of the garden.

These renovations were made possible by May Arboretum Society support and will make Burke Garden an even better venue for weddings in the future.

The construction is scheduled for completion around the end of April or the beginning of May 2019.

Burke garden this winter! This photo shows new irrigation lines being installed. Now pavers are going in!



The blueprint for how the garden will look when renovations are complete.

Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next outdoor adventure awaits at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden!



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